

The Problem:

Wisconsin does not manage the age structure of its deer herd. Presently, any deer with antlers three or more inches in length is a legal buck. This regulation allows many one and a half year old bucks with spike and fork-horn antlers to be harvested each fall. The majority of the bucks taken in Wisconsin each year are one and a half years old. The result is a herd with a man-made age structure where most bucks are not allowed to reach maturity. Consequently, many hunters never have the opportunity to harvest a mature buck.

States including: Arkansas, Michigan, Georgia, and others currently have regulations that only allow hunters to harvest bucks that have a minimum number of points per side or a minimum inside spread. In Pennsylvania, since 2002, bucks must have three or more points on an antler in forested areas and four or more points on an antler in agricultural areas to be considered legal bucks.

Managing the age structure of the herd would allow hunters the opportunity to harvest more mature bucks with larger antlers. Also, by increasing the age and number of bucks in the deer population, a more natural breeding ecology will be established.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in **Brown County** on **April 10, 2006**, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing regulations that would require a legal buck to have three or more points on one antler.

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County Brown

Passed or ~~Failed~~

County Resolution Number: 050506

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES 44 NO 84